

Konkan Railway
Corporation Ltd.

A proposal of KRCL to purchase the currently leased office space from Nuclear Power Corporation Limited (NPCL) is under examination at Railway Board.

Black marketing of wheat by FPS

†70. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the complaints regarding the large scale black marketing of wheat by Fair Price Shops;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken to apprehend the culprits; and

(c) if so, the number of persons arrested in these raids and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Targetted Public Distribution System. (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Centre and State Governments. The Central Government have responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of foodgrains, etc. The responsibility for effective distribution of the same to the consumers through a vast net work of Fair Shops (FPSs) lies with the State Governments. The operational responsibilities including allocation within the State, identification of families below poverty line, issue of ration cards, effective distribution, supervision and monitoring the functioning of FPSs rests with the State Governments. The distribution is carried through 4.89 lakh FPSs spread throughout the country. In such a vast net work of Public Distribution System, the possibilities of irregularities in some cases/ places cannot be ruled out. The Central Government is constantly reviewing and monitoring the performance of TPDS by periodically holding meetings/ conferences with the State Government and taking necessary corrective measures under the stipulated provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The State Governments have been advised to take action at their level on specific complaints.

As per the available information, during the year 2006, five cases of black-marketing of wheat were reported by the State Governments and six persons involved in these black-marketing cases have been ordered for detention under the Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. In addition, during 2006-07, 106 persons were arrested/prosecuted/convicted under PDS (Control) order, 2001 by the State Governments/Union Territory Administration and 2634 Fair Price Shops licences were suspended/cancelled/show cause notices issued to the Fair Prices Shops for various offences committed in the functioning of the TPDS. State Governments have also been advised to use the provisions of Right to Information (RTI) to improve transparency and efficiency in the TPDS.

Survey regarding consumption of per capita food served in trains

†*71. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been made about consumption of per capita food material being provided in Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains;

(b) if so, the percentage of people who consume food material completely;

(c) the quantity of leftover or unutilized food material per day; and

(d) if no such survey has been conducted whether Government would conduct the same and review the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

(d) At present, there is no proposal to conduct any such survey.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.